

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

**Donald A. Manzullo (IL-16), Ranking Member**  
**Opening Statement**

March 19, 2009

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this markup on House Concurrent Resolution 55 – Recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Taiwan Relation Act (TRA).

The Taiwan Relations Act is a remarkable piece of legislation that has allowed the United States to build diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China while maintaining a special relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan.

In the past 30 years, Taiwan made remarkable progress transforming itself to a thriving democracy and free-market economy. Taiwan is America's ninth largest trading partner, and the State of Illinois' fifth largest export market. The Taiwan Relations Act played a key role in Taiwan's prosperity by ensuring the peace and stability of the Western Pacific region.

I commend the President of Taiwan for reaching across the Taiwan Strait to proactively engage the People's Republic of China. According to press reports, this engagement has resulted in a surge of Chinese tourism to Taiwan. I am sure that in this economy, the increased tourism revenue and people to people contact are very much welcomed. Thus, I am hopeful that lowering tensions across the Taiwan Strait is also something that benefits all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I support your amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Con.Res. 55 and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.